

Glossary

A

abject poverty: extreme poverty in which an individual lives on less than \$1 per day

Aboriginal collective thought: a way of thinking that values the group more than the individual, and views all things as interconnected. In many Aboriginal communities this sense of the collective affects land holding, decision making, child rearing, and education.

Aboriginal Healing Foundation: a foundation created as a result of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, whose mandate is to encourage and support Aboriginal peoples as they create healing processes to address the legacy of physical and sexual abuse that many suffered in the residential school system

Aboriginal rights: the rights of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people in Canada, including their land and treaty rights, and rights pertaining to their history, culture, and language; the rights to which they are entitled above and beyond their rights as Canadian citizens, as outlined in Section 25, Part I and Section 35, Part II of the Constitution Act, 1982

Aboriginal self-government: First Nations, Métis, and Inuit groups making their own decisions regarding their economy, education, culture, use of natural resources, and other areas of concern for their well-being. This means having some independence in making decisions.

Adam Smith (1723–1790): an influential Scottish political economist who challenged the key ideas behind the mercantilist system and described how a free-market economy would work. Due in part to his liberal economic ideas, economic systems in Europe and around the world began to evolve and change towards laissez-faire capitalism and a free-market economy.

adherence to collective norms: faithful observance of the norms or standards imposed on members of a group as a condition of membership in the group. These norms can relate to conduct, values, or appearance.

altruism: unselfishness and a focus on the needs of others

Anti-terrorism Act: a law passed by Canada's Parliament in December 2001, in response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States. It gave the Canadian government special powers, such as surveillance and detention, for dealing with people carrying out activities thought to be associated with terrorism. Some of the act's measures, such as that of preventative arrest, expired in March 2007.

anti-war movement: an organized campaign against war. The Vietnam anti-war movement gained public support during the late 1960s and contributed to the United States ending that war. These movements can be pacifist in general, and aimed at

ending or restricting the military policy options, or they can be movements opposing specific military campaigns.

assimilation: the process whereby ethnic or cultural groups adopt the culture of a dominant group and are absorbed into its society. The process of assimilation involves taking on the traits of the dominant culture to such a degree that the group being assimilated risks losing its language, customs, and self-identity.

authoritarian political systems: political systems in which all decisions related to governing the state are made by a small group of people or by one person (for example, military rulers, a leader, or a dictator)

B

beliefs: the ideas and understandings that a person holds to be true, often influenced by such things as one's culture, language, religion, gender, and worldview

Bolsheviks: members of a wing of the Russian Social-Democratic Workers' Party, led by Vladimir Lenin, which took control in the Russian Revolution of 1917 and which became the Communist Party of the Soviet Union

bourgeoisie: a French word that refers to the social class that evolved in Europe during the Middle Ages with the development of cities and the growth in trade. Karl Marx used this word to refer to the business-owning class during the time of the Industrial Revolution in Europe.

brinkmanship: international behaviour or foreign policy that takes a country to the brink of war; pushing one's demands to the point of threatening military action (for example, the showdown between the United States and the Soviet Union over Cuba in October 1962)

C

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms: a document entrenched in the Constitutional Act, 1982 that lists and describes the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed to Canadians

capitalism: an economic system based on free markets, fair competition, wise consumers, and profit-motivated producers, in which a minimum of government involvement is favoured

capitalist economy: an economy that operates with limited government intervention. In a capitalist economy, questions regarding production and marketing of goods and services are decided through the free interaction of producers and consumers; also known as a *free-market economy*

censorship: restricting freedom of expression or freedom of access to ideas or works, usually by governments, and usually to protect the perceived common good; may be related to speech, writings, works of art, religious practices, or military matters

centrally planned economy: an economic system based on public (state) ownership of property, in which government planners decide which goods to produce, how to produce them, and how they should be distributed (for example, at what price they should be sold); also known as a *command economy*; usually found in communist states

citizenship: membership by birth or naturalization in a society, community, or country, which entails definable rights of participation and protection, and certain responsibilities and duties to the society, community, or country

civil disobedience: intentional, public refusal to obey a law; usually a form of non-violent political protest

class system: the division of a society into different classes of people, usually based on income or wealth

classical liberal: based on the ideology of classical liberalism

classical liberalism: an ideology that is based on the belief that the rights and freedoms of the individual should be the foundation for society. It was largely embraced during the 1800s in Europe, especially in its emphasis on a capitalist free-market economy.

Cold War (1945–1991): an ideological conflict between the communist Soviet Union and its allies, and the capitalist liberal democratic United States and its allies. This political, economic, and social conflict used propaganda, economic measures, and espionage rather than direct military conflict.

collective interest: the set of goals or ideals that members of a group pursue together and that will benefit the group as a whole, rather than benefiting any one individual in the group

collective responsibility: a group's responsibility for the actions of all of its individual members, as well as the idea that individuals have a responsibility to the group that is greater than their individual responsibility

collective security: the mutual protection of the members of an organization against an outside threat (for example, NATO's protection against the threat of Soviet attack)

collective will: the wants or wishes of a group of people

collectivism: an ideology that places the needs and goals of the collective, or group, before those of any individual member of the group, and is based on a belief in the interdependence of human society

command economy: an economic system based on public (state) ownership of property, in which government planners decide which goods to produce, how to produce them, and how they should be distributed (for example, at what price they should be sold); also known as a *centrally planned economy*; usually found in communist states

common good: the good of a community; something that benefits the public health, safety, and/or well-being of society as a whole

communism: an ideology based on the belief that the oppressed working class must overcome its property-owning oppressors through revolution, so that together they can work towards becoming a classless society in which property is owned by the community and all people share in the production of goods and in the benefits of production (at which point, in theory, no government is needed)

competition: the struggle among two or more people or groups for an economic, social, or political advantage. Supporters of a free-market economy see competition as an incentive for individuals and groups to work harder and more efficiently.

consensus decision making: a form of decision making whereby individuals in a group share ideas, solutions, and concerns to find a resolution that all members of the group can accept

Constitution Act (1867 and 1982): the act originally passed by the British Parliament (also known as the British North America Act, 1867) that established Canada and its form of government. It served as Canada's constitution until 1982, when it became the basis for the Constitution Act of 1982, passed by the Canadian Parliament. The Constitution Act of 1982 includes, among other things, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and a description of the collective rights of Canada's Aboriginal peoples.

constitutional monarchy: a political system in which a monarch shares power with a constitutionally organized government. In such monarchies, political authority is exercised by the people and their elected politicians, and the political process generally runs according to democratic procedures. Therefore, the monarch functions as a unifying and symbolic head of state who performs ceremonial duties, while the traditions and ceremonies associated with the monarchy symbolize historical continuity.

containment: the US Cold War foreign policy of stopping the spread of communism by establishing strategic allies around the world through trade and military alliances

co-operation: people working together to accomplish common goals, a principle emphasized by collectivist ideologies

cost of living: how much money is needed to provide a person or family with a certain standard of living (for example, food, shelter, clothing, and other goods and services that are required to maintain that standard)

Crown corporations: companies owned by Canadian federal or provincial governments, which are formed to serve the common good (for example, CBC, VIA Rail, BC Hydro, Saskatchewan Government Insurance, Liquor Control Board of Ontario)

Crown land: government-owned land, which is often rented or leased to individuals or companies for profit

compulsory enfranchisement: the automatic loss of status and rights provided by the Indian Act, and the gaining of citizenship rights. For example, in 1951, First Nations women who married non-status men gained the right to vote as Canadian citizens but at the same time lost their Aboriginal status and rights.

D

debt: an obligation to pay back borrowed money. Credit-card debt is an example of personal debt; an unpaid loan from the World Bank is an example of a debt that a developing country might face.

democracy: a political system in which the people have the power to make or influence government decisions directly or indirectly through such processes as free elections

democratic socialism: a political ideology that advocates a peaceful, evolutionary transition of society from capitalism to socialism (a society in which people share fairly in its wealth) through democratic means, as opposed to the communist idea of change through violent revolution; also known as *social democracy*

détente: a period of the Cold War from the mid-1960s to 1979, during which the major powers tried to lessen the tensions between them through diplomacy, treaties, arms talks and reductions, and cultural exchanges

deterrence: the Cold War foreign policy of both major powers, aiming to deter the military advances of the other through developing and building up arms, especially nuclear weapons. Deterrence depends on each side creating the perception that it is willing to use its weapons.

dictator: a individual ruler or a small group that has complete control over the laws by which its people live, and thereby controls the economy, social structure, and political decision making of the country

dictatorship: a form of government in which one person or a small group possesses absolute power. Dictators, who are not accountable to the citizens over whom they rule, often use force or fraud to gain political power, which they maintain through intimidation, terror, the repression of civil liberties, and propaganda.

direct democracy: a form of democratic government in which people participate directly in political decision making. A direct democracy operates on the belief that every citizen's voice is important and necessary for an orderly and efficient society.

distribution of wealth: how the wealth and income generated by an economy are divided or shared among the different groups that make up a society. Redistribution of wealth or income is a policy promoted by collectivist ideologies such as socialism and communism in order to reduce the “rich-poor gap” in society and create greater economic equality.

E

economic equality: a principle common to collectivist ideologies, which can have different meanings depending on the person or the ideology. Governments may try to foster economic equality through tax policies and by ensuring that all people earn equal wages for work of similar value.

economic freedom: the ability of individuals to act freely as consumers and producers within an economic system

egalitarianism: an ideology that holds that all people should be treated as equals and have the same political, civil, economic, and social rights under the law

Emergencies Act: a set of laws that permits the Canadian government to invoke special measures to deal with emergencies. It replaced the War Measures Act in 1988. Emergencies can include those that affect public welfare and order, Canadian security, or war or other armed conflict. The legislation is designed to protect Canadians' fundamental rights and freedoms even in a time of crisis.

enfranchisement: granting people the rights of citizens, especially the right to vote. Until 1960, for First Nations people in Canada, this also meant giving up or abandoning their First Nations or Indian status.

environment: our surroundings; can mean either the natural world around us, including all plants and animals, the air, the soil, and the water, or our social or cultural surroundings

environmental concerns: areas of specific concern regarding the natural environment of the planet (for example, climate change, resource depletion, pollution caused by resource development, and the threat of extinction faced by numerous species)

environmentalism: a political and ethical ideology that focuses on protecting the natural environment and lessening the harmful effects that human activities have on ecosystems

equal opportunity/opportunities: policies and practices in employment and other areas that do not discriminate against individuals on the basis of race, colour, age, gender, national origin, religion, or mental or physical disability

equitable distribution of income and wealth: the idea that all people should earn equal income for work of similar value, and that people with larger incomes should pay taxes at a higher rate than people with lower incomes, in order to provide state-run social welfare programs that support those with lower incomes

eugenics: an ideology based on the premise that all human physical and mental characteristics are passed on through biological heredity. It proposes that breeding be controlled to increase the occurrence of human traits considered to be desirable.

excessive intrusion: government interfering in personal or business matters to what some people consider an unreasonable extent (for example, censoring media such as television, radio, films, or the Internet)

expansionism: a political and military policy of taking over additional territory through the violation of another country's sovereignty, for reasons that can include defence, access to resources or markets, national pride, or perceived racial superiority

extremism: the actions or ideologies of individuals or groups outside what is considered acceptable in a society, which can include acts of terrorism. *Extremism* is usually contrasted with *moderation*, and *extremists* with *moderates*.

F

fascism: an authoritarian system of government (a dictatorship) that includes extreme militaristic nationalism, a belief in the rule of elites, and a totalitarian society in which individual interests are subordinated to the good of the nation-state. Fascism rejects the ideas of both liberal democracy and communism or socialism.

feminism: a political movement involving organized efforts to achieve political, social, and economic equality for women

First Nations: Aboriginal or “first” peoples, who were once called *Indians*, descendants of the original inhabitants of Canada, and the various governments that represent them. *First Nations* can refer to individuals or communities (reserves), as well as to governance through band councils under the terms of the Indian Act.

first past the post: an electoral system in which the candidate with the most votes in an electoral district (such as a riding or constituency) wins the election. This system is often contrasted with *proportional representation*, an alternative electoral method used in many liberal democracies.

flat tax: a tax system in which taxpayers at all levels of income are taxed at the same rate. It is often contrasted with *progressive taxes*, where those who earn more pay a greater percentage of their income in taxes than do those who earn less.

free-market economy: an economic system that operates with limited government intervention. In a free-market economy, questions regarding production and pricing of goods and services are decided through the free interaction of producers and consumers.

free vote: a special vote in which legislators are free to vote as they choose rather than according to the policy of their political party

fundamental right: the key rights with which, some believe, all human beings are born, such as the rights to life, liberty, and security

G

global warming: an increase in the average temperature of the earth's atmosphere, which many scientists believe is caused by greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide

government intervention: actions taken by government to influence the economy (for example, setting taxation and interest rates, spending on public works and social programs, imposing regulations, and breaking up monopolies)

governor general: in Canada, the appointed representative of the Crown (the actual head of state) who exercises a largely ceremonial executive role as Canada's head of state in Parliament and in public events

grassroots movement: a campaign that usually begins when a few people share a belief about how a situation—often in their own communities—must change. It is usually formed naturally and spontaneously in response to an issue, in contrast to traditional well-established political parties.

Great Depression: an economic crisis that began with the stock market crash in 1929 and continued through the 1930s. During this time, banks failed, factories closed, many people became unemployed, and international trade declined.

Great Law of Peace: the constitution of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy (an alliance of six First Nations) outlining a form of governance based on the values of peace, power, and righteousness

H

Haudenosaunee Confederacy: an alliance of six First Nations: Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca, and Tuscarora

health crises: situations where there is the threat of a disease spreading widely and quickly (for example, a new virus or pandemic) or where there are other medical or health-related emergencies such as famine (lack of food), drought (lack of water), or infestations of insects or other organisms

human interdependence: the idea that individuals do not live their lives in isolation, but rather depend on one another in many ways

humanitarian crises: disasters such as famines, pandemics, natural calamities (for example, earthquakes), or wars that cause great hardship and loss (often loss of life) to the population of a given area

humanitarianism: an ideology based on trying to improve other people's living conditions, such as providing care for those in need or trying to stop human rights violations

human rights: also known as *natural rights*; the rights and freedoms to which all humans are entitled. These rights are enshrined in Bills and Declarations of Rights in many countries including Canada and the United States, and in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

ideological conflict: a struggle between two distinct and opposing sets of beliefs and values (for example, between capitalist liberal democracy and communism during the Cold War)

ideological spectrum: a diagram on which ideologies can be organized according to a particular set of criteria, such as the extent to which they emphasize collectivism or individualism, which appear on opposite ends of the spectrum

ideology: a system of thought based on beliefs and values that include ideas about how the world works, how we should live together as a society, and what society could become in the future

imposition: forcing something on people whether they want it or not

Indian Act: an act of Canada's Parliament first passed in 1876, since amended many times, dealing with the governance of First Nations reserves, the rights of registered individuals, and the federal government's obligations towards them. Included under the act are those First Nations peoples who signed treaties and their descendants, and those who were otherwise registered as Indians. One of its goals has been the assimilation of First Nations peoples into European-based Canadian culture.

individualism: an ideology that values the rights and freedoms of the individual, often above the security and harmony of the whole group

individual rights and freedoms: the rights associated with personal liberty, such as freedom of religion and of association, and the right to life, liberty, and the security of the person; a key value of individualism and an important feature of liberal democracies

industrialization: the process of introducing technology to produce goods, which results in mass production and mass consumption within a society. This is generally accompanied by urbanization, increased use of natural resources, greater amounts of pollution, and an increased standard of living compared to an agricultural society.

Industrial Revolution: economic and social changes, such as the ones that began in England in the late 18th century, that occur when extensive mechanization of production systems results in a shift from home-based hand manufacturing in rural areas to large-scale factory production in cities

interest groups: organizations that seek to influence elected officials. Their goal is to encourage legislation that reflects their specific beliefs or values, or to prevent the passage of legislation that does not reflect their values

Internet censorship: the act of restricting freedom of expression or of access to ideas or works on the Internet, usually by governments, and usually to protect the perceived common good

Inuit: Aboriginal people in northern Canada living generally north of the tree line in Nunavut, northern Québec, the Northwest Territories, and Labrador. Inuit peoples also live in Greenland, Russia, and Alaska.

John Stuart Mill (1806–1873): an influential British political thinker, whose essay *On Liberty* (1859) is seen as one of the most important origins of liberal thought. Mill argued that individuals should be free to act as they wished, so long as their actions did not interfere with the rights of others.

labour standards: government-enforced rules and standards aimed at providing safe, clean working environments and protecting workers' rights to free association, collective bargaining, and freedom from discrimination

labour unions: organized groups of workers who try to improve the working conditions and wages for a specific group of workers or for an entire industry

laissez-faire: a French term meaning “leave alone”. A laissez-faire economy is one in which government does not intervene in the free market; also called *laissez-faire capitalism* or *free-market economy*; related to classical liberalism

land holding: ideas and practices related to access and rights to the use of land (for example, many Aboriginal land claims are based on Aboriginal peoples' differing views on land holding from those of non-Aboriginal Canadians)

leadership: demonstrating the ability to lead a group of people to get something done, address a cause, or resolve a problem

Leninism: a political ideology based on Russian leader Vladimir Lenin's interpretation of communism, whereby a communist state would be established through violent revolution and would then be governed by the authoritarian leadership of the Communist Party

liberal democracy: a form of government in which the rights and freedoms of the individual are guaranteed, including the right of individuals to vote for the political leaders of their country

liberalism: an ideology based on the importance of individual liberty and the values of individualism (including individual rights and freedoms, self-interest, competition, economic freedom, rule of law, and private property)

liberation movements: people's military and political struggles for independence from countries that have colonized or otherwise oppressed them (for example, people in Eastern European countries liberating themselves from Soviet communist control)

lieutenant-governor: the appointed representative of the Crown in each province, who exercises a largely ceremonial executive role in the provincial legislature and in public events

limited government: the principle of minimal government intervention in the lives of individuals and in the workings of an economy

M

majority government: in Canada, a government formed by the party (or coalition of parties) holding more than half of the seats in the House of Commons or in a provincial legislature

Marxism: a socialist ideology that evolved from interpretations of Karl Marx's idea that the working class (proletariat) should overthrow the capitalist class (bourgeoisie) and establish a classless society where property would be owned by the state; also called *scientific socialism* or *communism*

median: the middle value in a set of values, where there is an equal number of values both above and below it (for example, the “median household income” of a group is the value where the number of households earning more equals the number of those earning less)

mercantilism: an economic system, common in Europe from the 1500s to the 1700s, based on the beliefs that a country should export more goods than it imports, accumulate wealth in gold and silver, and protect its economy by taxing and setting quotas on imports. In this system, a government exercised much control over the economy of its country, through corporations, trading company monopolies, and regulation of production.

meritocracy: a type of social system in which individuals are rewarded based on their abilities and hard work (merit) rather than, for example, their class, wealth, or social connections

Métis: people of mixed First Nations and European ancestry (for example, French, Scottish, or Irish, and Ojibway or Cree) who identify themselves as Métis

Millennium Development Goals: worldwide goals for the new millennium as set out by the United Nations in 2000, including goals such as cutting the number of people living in extreme poverty around the world in half by 2015

minority government: a government formed when the governing political party (or coalition of parties) holds fewer than half of the total seats in the House of Commons or a provincial legislature, but holds more seats than any other party

mixed economy: an economic system in which free-market principles are combined with some degree of government intervention, usually to regulate industry, moderate the boom-and-bust nature of the free-market business cycle, and offer social welfare programs. In some mixed economic systems, the government owns some key industries (such as communications, utilities, or transportation).

modern liberalism: an ideology that developed over time to address concerns with the inequality and injustices created by a capitalist society, while remaining focused on individual rights

monopolies: companies with exclusive ownership or control of trade in a particular product or service, allowing them to control prices

Multiculturalism Act (1988): an act of Canada's Parliament that promotes people's individual rights to keep their cultural heritage as outlined in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, while promoting the idea that Canadians of all backgrounds should take an active part in the social, cultural, economic, and political affairs of Canadian society

N

national interest: goals that a country pursues for its own benefit, especially to ensure its own security, prosperity, power, or culture

naturalization: for immigrants, the process of applying for and obtaining citizenship

Nazism: a fascist political ideology promoted by Adolf Hitler, based on a complete rejection of the political values of liberalism by creating a totalitarian dictatorship focused on the ideas of national power and racial superiority; also called *National Socialism*

New Deal: a series of economic measures introduced by US president Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Great Depression (1929 through the 1930s) which increased the role of the US government in the economy (for example, spending on public works projects, establishing social welfare programs, and regulating banks)

non-alignment: the position taken during the Cold War by those members of the United Nations—mostly developing countries—that did not form an alliance with either the United States or the Soviet Union

non-partisan: not affiliated (connected) to any political party

P

pandemic: a new infectious disease that emerges and causes serious illness among people across a large geographic area

parliamentary democracy: a democratic form of government in which the party (or a coalition of parties) with the greatest representation in the parliament forms the government, with its leader becoming prime minister. It is responsible to a majority of the elected members of the legislative assembly and to the head of state.

party solidarity: the idea that all members of a political party should be loyal to and support the official decisions of their party, and vote according to their party's position on an issue

plebiscite: a direct vote by citizens on a specific question submitted to them by their government to determine their wishes

political participation: any number of ways in which a citizen can be involved in the political process, such as voting, running as a candidate, supporting a candidate, attending constituency meetings, speaking out, demonstrating, protesting, or writing letters to elected representatives

political parties: organizations of people who share similar beliefs, values, and concerns, and whose goal is to have its candidates elected to a legislative assembly such as Parliament

poverty: the state of having insufficient resources or income, either to meet the basic necessities of life (for example, clean drinking water, food, shelter, and adequate clothing), or to reflect the prevailing standard of living in a community

poverty line: a level of income below which people are considered to be living in poverty

private enterprise: a way of organizing business based on private ownership of property, and operated by individuals who hope to make a profit from their activities and who bear any risk associated with those activities; the type of business in a free-market or capitalist economy

private property: material possessions, including land, that are owned by an individual or group. The rights to private property and its protection are central values of liberalism.

pro-democracy movements: movements or campaigns in favour of democracy, especially in countries with authoritarian governments

profile: a description of a “typical” representative of a group of people, based on statistics (see definition) (for example, a profile of the “typical young driver”)

progressive taxation: a system in which a person’s tax rate increases as his or her earnings increase. This type of taxation system aims to lessen the tax burden on those who have lower incomes.

proletariat: a term used by Karl Marx to refer to the class of industrial workers whose only asset is the labour that they sell to an employer. Marx argued that the proletariat should rise up against the bourgeoisie (the property- and business-owning class).

proportional representation: a system of voting where citizens vote directly for a party, and then representatives of each party are assigned to the legislature based on that party’s share of popular support. This results in a fairly accurate representation within the legislature of the will of the people.

protest: an expression of opposition or dissent; a public demonstration against the policies of a government or other organization

proxy war: a war in which the Cold War superpowers (the United States and the Soviet Union) supported opposing sides or fought directly against the side supported by the rival superpower

public enterprise: a way of organizing business based on public or state ownership of property and operated by government or a government authority; often found in sectors such as utilities, communication, and transportation in a mixed economy; also the way of organizing economic activity in a command (centrally planned) economy

public property: anything (for example, land, buildings, or vehicles) not privately owned by individuals. Generally speaking, public property is owned by the state or the community, and managed according to the best interests of the community.

Q

Québec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms (*La Charte des droits et libertés de la personne du Québec*): a human rights code that was passed by the National Assembly of Québec in 1975. It includes protection of fundamental rights and freedoms and of political, equality, judicial, economic, and social rights.

R

racism: the belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities, and that racial differences produce superiority of a particular race. People with racist beliefs show prejudice toward individuals and groups of people according to their race and discriminate against them.

Red Paper: a document published by the National Indian Brotherhood in 1969 to oppose the government’s publication of the White Paper. It contained its members’ objections to and concerns about what they saw as the government trying to impose liberalism on them and to avoid fulfilling treaty rights and unsettled land claims.

referendum: a special vote in which all eligible citizens may vote on an important issue put to them by a government. This is a form of direct democracy.

representation by population: also known as *rep-by-pop*; a form of political representation in which a country is divided into voting districts, or electoral ridings (or constituencies), with most containing approximately the same number of voters

representative democracy: a form of democratic government in which citizens elect candidates to represent them in government and to make decisions on their behalf; often contrasted with *direct democracy*

residential schools: under the terms of the original Indian Act of 1876, schools created as part of Canada’s program for the assimilation of the Aboriginal peoples into European-centred

Canadian society. Aboriginal children were removed from their communities and forcibly housed and taught in church-run residential schools.

resistance: the act of opposing a social, economic, or political proposition or plan. Passive resistance (also known as *nonviolent resistance*) is a method of nonviolent protest against laws or policies in order to force a change or gain concessions. It is the main tactic of civil disobedience.

resource use and development: the way in which a country's or a region's natural resources (for example, wood, gas, oil, and minerals) are used by society and how these resources are extracted and used by companies and governments

respect for law and order: one of the responsibilities of citizens in a liberal democratic society, where people enjoy a high degree of individual rights and freedoms. Failure on the part of the population to demonstrate this type of respect could result in a state of chaos.

responsibilities of citizenship: the involvement and active participation of every citizen in exchange for the benefits and rights of citizenship. These can include serving on a jury, paying taxes, voting, or helping people in other countries.

rights of citizenship: the benefits of being a citizen of a country (for example, the rights to vote; run in elections; and obtain all of the social services, protection, and assistance available to the country's citizens)

roles of citizenship: the actions expected of or permitted of citizens within their society. In a democratic society, these roles might include taking a stand on issues, taking part in the political process, leading in making changes in society, sharing in decision making, and constructively expressing concern about local, provincial/territorial, and federal government policies.

rule of law: the idea that the law itself, and not an individual, has the greatest power and that all individuals are equal before the law and subject to the same law

S

scarcity: an economic concept that says human needs and wants are without limit but resources are always limited, or scarce. This is the basic problem faced by any economic system.

Second World War: a war of global proportion from 1939 to 1945 between the Allied countries (including Great Britain, France, Canada, the Soviet Union, and the United States) and the Axis countries (including Germany, Italy, and Japan)

security certificates: government-issued documents that allow Canadian authorities such as the RCMP or CSIS to arrest, hold for any length of time, and deport non-citizens without any public explanation

self-interest: one's personal interest or advantage; seeking to satisfy one's own needs

Senate: an appointed upper house in the Canadian Parliament created in 1867, modelled after the House of Lords in the British parliamentary system. It was intended to represent regional and minority interests in Canada and to make sure new laws received further careful consideration after being passed by the elected representatives in the House of Commons.

social contract: an understanding (written or non-written) whereby each individual of a society agrees to be governed so that he or she may gain the benefits of living in that society (for example, by having access to protection and economic opportunities)

social Darwinism: an ideology which promotes the notion that some individuals or groups achieve power and advantage over others through competition because they are stronger and fitter

socialism: any ideology based on the belief that collectivist values, such as collective responsibility, collective interest, co-operation, economic equality, adherence to collective norms, and public property, should be the foundation for political, economic, and social life

social programs: government programs (such as employment insurance, health care, education, and child care) meant to ensure equality of opportunity and a more equitable distribution of wealth in society

social safety net: government-funded services and assistance (such as social assistance, old age pensions, unemployment insurance benefits, and universal health care), which can help people through bad economic times

spheres of influence: the countries and territories over which a more powerful country dominates, such as those that the United States and the Soviet Union each influenced politically during the Cold War

Stalinism: a political ideology based on Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin's interpretation of communism, characterized by totalitarian rule and repression of political opponents (dissidents)

standard of living: the level of material comfort enjoyed by a person, group, or society; the amount of goods and services that people can afford to buy

statistics: the science of collecting and analyzing numerical data

stewards: caretakers of the environment and its resources

subsidies: financial assistance offered by government to privately owned businesses

supply and demand: forces in a free-market economy whereby producers determine what and how much to produce (supply) to meet consumers' demand for these goods; how the price of goods is determined in a free-market economy

T

terrorism: the policy of various ideological groups to disrupt the affairs of an enemy state or culture by violent acts against non-combatants, in order to create devastating terror and confusion

treaty rights: special rights to lands and other entitlements, due to people recognized as Treaty Indians under negotiated treaties. These rights depend on the precise terms and conditions of each treaty. No two treaties are identical, but usually they provide rights such as entitlement to reserve lands, hunting and fishing rights, annuities (small annual payments) for members, and sometimes freedom from certain types of taxation.

Truman Doctrine: a decision made in 1947 by US president Harry S. Truman that the United States would provide economic and military support to Greece and Turkey to prevent communist parties from gaining control in those countries. This policy was later expanded to justify support for any country that the US government believed was threatened by communism during the Cold War, and underlies the US Cold War foreign policy of containment.

U

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): a resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948. The declaration outlines the human rights to which all people are entitled.

universal health care: publicly funded medical care programs that provide essential health services to all people regardless of their ability to pay for them

USA PATRIOT Act (the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act): legislation passed by the US government in 2001 to deter and punish terrorist acts in the United States. Some Americans argue that the act is a threat to personal liberties.

utopian socialism: a socialist ideology based on cooperative communities with improved living and working conditions for industrial workers, as described and attempted by early socialists such as Robert Owen and Charles Fourier

V

values: the ideas and understandings that people hold to be important or fundamental to who they are as individuals or as members of a group, often influenced by such things as one's culture, language, religion, and gender

viability of liberalism: whether or not the values of liberalism are practical or workable in all situations

voting rights: the rights of certain groups of people in society to participate in elections (for example, women or Aboriginal groups); also called *suffrage*

W

War Measures Act: a Canadian law that gave emergency powers to the federal cabinet in circumstances where a war, invasion, or insurrection seemed possible. It was replaced by the Emergencies Act in 1988.

weapons of mass destruction (WMDs): weapons, such as nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, that can very quickly kill large numbers of people and severely damage large areas of the planet's biosphere, making these areas uninhabitable

welfare state: a society in which government plays a large role in providing for the needs of its citizens through publicly funded social programs (for example, old age pension, unemployment insurance, education, health care, and public housing), based on the principles of equality of opportunity and equitable distribution of wealth

White Paper: a document presented by the federal government in 1969 that proposed to abolish treaties, the Indian Act, the Department of Indian Affairs, and any evidence of distinct relations between Canada and First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples, in order to assimilate Aboriginal peoples into "mainstream" Canadian society

will of the people: the collective wishes of the people of a state. A democratically elected government will usually attempt to determine these wishes and make decisions based on them.

World Bank: an organization formed in 1944 to help rebuild countries after the Second World War. Its goal is to provide financing to countries around the world for projects designed to help reduce poverty.

worldview: a collection of beliefs about life and the universe held by an individual or group; the lens through which the world is viewed by an individual or group; the overall perspective from which the world is interpreted